The recruitment in Navy and Air Force is carried out on all-India merit basis. For Navy and Air Force no case of corruption in recruitment has been reported from the Branch Recruiting Office in Himachal Pradesh. For Army two cases of corruption have been reported in the last three years. In one case penalty has been imposed upon the guilty and the action in another case is in progress. To obviate the possibility of any malpractices the recruitment in Army is carried out through open rallies. Recruitment is made in full view of the public which brings more transparency into the process of recruitment. This rally system is fair and candidate friendly.

Accident rates of MIG Aircraft

2005. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MIG aircraft of Indian Air Force have high accident rates;

(b) if so, how many accidents have been reported involving MIG-21, MIG-23 during the last five years; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last five years 81 MIG series aircraft have been lost in accidents.

(c) Human error (aircrew), bird hit and technical defects have been identified as main causes of these accidents by various Courts of Enquiry. Remedial measures based on the recommendations are instituted after each Court of Enquiry. In addition, measures to enhance the quality of training to improve skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and improve situational awareness are constantly being reviewed and implemented. Renewed thrust on acquiring simulators and training aircraft is a step towards improving the quality of the man behind machine. Besides, a total of 125 MIG-21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for up-gradation. Out of these, two have already been upgraded in Russia during the

design and development phase, which has been completed recently. It has been planned that the remaining aircraft will be upgraded at HAL, Nasik.

Appointment in management of Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore

2006. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Management of the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore had sought release of vacancy order of 200 numbers from Ordnance Factory Board in January and February, 2000;

(b) whether more than 500 technically qualified Ex-Trade apprentices are awaiting employment after three to four years training in the above vacancies;

(c) whether the issue was taken up earlier also with him and with the Minister of State;

(d) if so, whether any action is being taken to fill up the vacancies through Ex-Trade apprentices; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore requested for sanction of 171 posts to be filled by Ex-Trade Apprentices in February 2000. There was no proposal from the factory in January 2000.

(b) Yes. However, as per rules Ordnance Factories are not under any obligation to give employment to all Ex-Trade Apprentices as training is imparted as per statutory obligations.

(c) Ordnance Factory Board has, for the organisation as a whole, been taking up the issue of induction of fresh manpower for skill sustenance from time to time, by direct recruitment, including from Ex-Trade Apprentices.

(d) Ordnance Factory Board issued sanction on 12.10.2000 for filling up 50 vacancies by Ex-Trade Apprentices. Vacancies were released keeping in view the functional requirements and consistent load position of Gun & Shell Factory.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.